

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00450 150401Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SMI-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/021 W

----- 065719

R 150350Z MAR 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3391

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 450

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US

SUBJECT: MYSTERY OF MISSING MUSK OX

1. DURING VISIT OF SMITHSONIAN SECRETARY S. DILLON RIPLEY TO PEKING, USLO TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO ARRANGE CALLS FOR SECRETARY ON OFFICIALS OF PEKING ZOO. IN ADDITION, NO ZOO OFFICIALS APPEARED AT RECEPTION GIVEN BY USLO CHIEF BUSH IN HONOR OF SECRETARY RIPLEY AND HIS ASSOCIATE, MR. AUSTIN (INVITEES, IN ADDITION TO ZOO OFFICIALS, WERE LARGELY FROM PEKING MUSEUM CIRCLES).

2. POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR UNAVAILABILITY OF ZOO OFFICIALS COULD BE DEDUCED FROM FACT THAT WHEN SECRETARY RIPLEY MANAGED TO VISIT ZOO ON MARCH 14, ONLY ONE OF THE TWO MUSK OXEN PRESENTED BY PRESIDENT NIXON TO CHINESE IN 1972 WAS VISIBLE IN ZOO ENCLOSURE. CHINESE ATTENDANTS AT ZOO, WHEN ASKED ABOUT WHEREABOUTS OF OTHER MUSK OX, DENIED THAT THERE HAD EVER BEEN MORE THAN ONE. WE SURMISE FROM THIS THAT CHINESE WERE SENSITIVE ABOUT PROBABLE DEMISE OF ONE MUSK OX AND HOPED TO AVOID HAVING THIS FACT BECOMING KNOWN TO SECRETARY RIPLEY.

3. INCIDENTALLY, SECRETARY RIPLEY FOUND PEKING ZOO RATHER DIRTY AND BELOW STANDARDS WHICH HE HAD EXPECTED FOR SUCH A WELL-KNOWN INSTITUTION.

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BUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ZOOLOGY, VISITS, PUBLIC PARKS, WILD ANIMALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PEKING00450
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750091-0291
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750347/aaaabqci.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MYSTERY OF MISSING MUSK OX
TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, TBIO, CH, US, (RIPLEY, S DILLON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006